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5-7-2018

USEPA

Attn.: SPCC Program, Oil Storage Tanks
Region – 6, Dallas Office
1445 Ross Avenue
Dallas, TX 75202

Re: ASTM 653 Standard – Complaint for Failure to Comply
Continental Carbon Company @ Ponca City OK & Sunray TX

Sir/Madam:

These standard covers steel storage tanks built to API 650 and its predecessor API 12C. It provides minimum requirements for maintaining the integrity of such tanks after they have been placed in service and addresses inspection, repair, alteration, relocation, and reconstruction.

The scope is limited to the tank foundation, bottom, shell, structure, roof, attached appurtenances, and nozzles to the face of the first flange, first threaded joint, or first welding-end connection. Many of the design, welding, examination, and material requirements of API 650 can be applied in the maintenance inspection, rating, repair, and alteration of in-service tanks. In the case of apparent conflicts between the requirements of this standard and API 650 or its predecessor API 12C, this standard shall govern for tanks that have been placed in service.

This standard employs the principles of API 650; however, storage tank owner/operators, based on consideration of specific construction and operating details, may apply this standard to any steel tank constructed in accordance with a tank specification.

This standard is intended for use by organizations that maintain or have access to engineering and inspection personnel technically trained and experienced in tank design, fabrication, repair, construction, and inspection.

This standard does not contain rules or guidelines to cover all the varied conditions which may occur in an existing tank. When design and construction details are not given, and are not available in the as-built standard, details that will provide a level of integrity equal to the level provided by the current edition of API 650 must be used.

This standard recognizes fitness-for-service assessment concepts for evaluating in-service degradation of pressure containing components. API 579-1/ASME FFS-1, Fitness-For-Service, provides detailed assessment procedures or acceptance criteria for specific types of degradation referenced in this standard. When this standard does not provide specific evaluation procedures or acceptance criteria for a specific type of degradation or when this standard explicitly allows the use of fitness-for-service criteria, API 579-1/ASME FFS-1 may be used to evaluate the various types of degradation or test requirements addressed in this standard.

To summarize, in oil storage tanks with a site in excess of 1-million gallons of oil, the tanks must be both interior and exterior tested in accordance to the standard for thickness, corrosion, pitting, base leakage, and foundation.

Continental Carbon Company has neither of the 10-yr complete integrity testing done or planned, nor the 5-yr integrity testing done as the last time any of these tanks, Ponca City Tank #6 was internally inspected was 12-1986 by myself and a contractor, and Sunray Tank #4 in 1996 post the collapse of the roof and top-ring as the schedule 10 center pipe collapsed, not a schedule 80 pipe as engineering standards require.

Continental Carbon has knowingly and with intent, postponed and will disclaim said postponement due to costs and having to take the tanks out of service, the costs involved, and the inability to be able to move the required oil volumes for Production demand. This excuse is Not an acceptable basis. Continental Carbon started a program of inspections at the Phenix City (AL) Plant in 2014. Did one tank as it failed, then annually was set to complete the other 2 tanks. A second oil tank was done in 2016. There is still one tank pending and according to the sites ISO 14001 registry is set to be completed by September 2018. Whether that tank is done or scheduled is very doubtful as you both have listened to the claims of funding and lost profits due to implementing the required emission controls systems at the company plants.

Sunray TX-

The Sunray TX Plant lacks the ability to contain (110% of volume for tank and piping) of the largest tank (#4) as required under the Spill Prevention Controls and Counter-Measures (SPCC) plan on file. The site has known for over a decade the need to improve the diking system of the oil storage tanks. Continental Carbon Company has intentionally disregarded the legal requirements of the SPCC Program and Plan, and left the site vulnerable to failure to control any spillage. In addition, Oil Tanks 1, 2, and 3 do Not meet the requirements of the API-653 standard either. These tanks are constructed roughly in 1948-1950 when the entire industry switched to use of oil for production from natural gas production as feedstock. These tanks are either a combination of nuts & bolts of plating or external welds on the oil tanks. None of tanks 1-3 have ever been internally or externally inspected though by mid-August the self-evident leakage at the plate seams is unmistakable to the naked eye.

Ponca City OK-

Oil Tank #6 was last modified, inspected, and replacement of the roof and top ring of tank in December 1986 by myself using Contractors. The oil tank had the volume of the retention dike increased to hold the requisite 110% of the tank plus piping per the SPCC standard. This being said, Oil Tanks 1, 2, and 3 have roofs which have gaping holes and missing integrity. Personnel are Not allowed on top of the tanks for safety reasons which were instituted years ago. These tanks previously had asbestos on them which was cleaned by certified AHERA contractors.

Summary-

Continental Carbon Company has intentionally chosen to claim financial distress knowingly disregard compliance with the requirements of both the USEPA, TCEQ, and ODEQ, for years. I personally was told to not include these types of projects in budgets when I worked at Continental Carbon Company. When I did put it into my EHS budget it was intentionally removed annually.

I want to file this as a formal complaint with all agencies, as Continental Carbon Company management has distinctly denied the issues, declined to include the projects, and one spill will have paid for everything and more in just the recovery costs. The environmental compliance was withheld and the facts are discoverable from the EHS compiled records in the Houston Headquarters offices under the files "Plant Name-Environmental file number 5.8" and others.

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ODEQ

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TCEQ

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